At the outset, Applicants wish to thank Examiner Ewoldt for his insights during a telephonic interview on January 10, 2001 concerning the allowability of claims drawn to specific monoclonal antibodies and hybridomas. Applicants believe that the amended claims drawn to specific monoclonal antibodies and hybridomas recite subject matter that is non-obvious and free of anticipatory art in accordance with the requirements stated in the Examiner's interview summary.

Applicants have amended the specification on page 86 of the originally filed application to recite the deposit of hybridomas for the specific monoclonal antibodies disclosed at least on pages 80-84 of the application. The biological deposit was made in the National Institute of Bioscience and Human Technology National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, an International Depositary Authority in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.803 as established under the Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms for the Purpose of Patent Procedure. A copy of a certified English translation of the Receipt in the Case of an Original Deposit under the Budapest Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms for the Purposes of patent Procedure for hybridomas A1G5, D2F4 and E3H8 is attached at Exhibit A. A copy of the Corroboration of Biological Deposit under MPEP §2406.02 is attached at Exhibit B. Applicants believe that the requirements for biological deposit under the deposit rules (37 C.F.R. §1.801 - §1.809) have been fully met.

Recitation of Monoclonal Antibodies and Hybridomas/Amendments to the Specification

The originally-filed specification recites monoclonal antibodies A1G5, E3H8, D2F4 and the methods of obtaining and using the corresponding hybridomas at least on pages 80-84 of the originally filed application. The recited monoclonal antibodies and the corresponding hybridomas are fully capable of being reduced to practice from the description provided in the application. Applicants believe that no new matter is introduced by amending the specification to recite deposit of the claimed hybridomas in accordance with the Budapest Treaty.

Applicants submit that new claims 37-49 are directed to certain embodiments of the invention related to monoclonal antibodies and their corresponding hybridomas. Basis for new

claims 37-49 can be found throughout the specification as filed and amended herein. Specifically, basis for new claims 37-49 can be found at least on pages 80-84 of the specification as originally-filed and the text added to page 86 by amendment herein. Applicants submit that the aforementioned amendments introduce no new matter.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that the amendments to the specification and claims be entered prior to examination of the application. Early favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Reg. No. 44,244

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MARKED-UP COPY OF THE AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

The specification on page 86, after line 4 and before "Industrial Availability" is amended as follows:

Samples of the hybridomas that produce the claimed monoclonal antibodies were deposited in the National Institute of Bioscience and Human Technology National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology. The National Institute of Bioscience and Human Technology National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology accession numbers for the deposited hybridomas are:

Hybridoma Antibody Designation	Deposit Date	Accession No.
A1G5	2/5/01	FERM BP-7441
D2F4	2/5/01	FERM BP-7442
E3H8	2/5/01	FERM BP-7443

These deposits were made under the Budapest Treaty and will be maintained and made accessible to others in accordance with the provisions thereof.